

FOSTER CARE FACT SHEET

September 2003

Termination of Parental Rights:

The number of abused/neglected children whose parent's rights were terminated has continued to grow. In 1990, 1,630 children became wards of the state. In FY 2003, 3,450 children became wards of the state, an increase of 212% in thirteen years.

Number of Kids in Care:

The total abuse/neglect caseload in October 1990 was 17,068 cases with 14,414 in out-of-home care. At the end of FY 2003, the total abuse/neglect caseload was 19,549 with 17,342 in out-of-home care, defined as children not living in their own parent's home.

There has been a significant increase in the shift from non-relative foster care settings to relative (or kinship care). The number of abuse/neglected children living with grandparents, aunts, uncles and other relatives instead of non-relative foster care has steadily climbed over the last ten years. The number of children in relative placements has grown from 3,365 in October 1990 to 6,348 at the end of the FY 2003.

Placements of Abuse/Neglect Children:

	<u>End of FY 2003</u>
• Own Parent Home	2,207
• Relatives (in and out-of-state)	6,348
• Legal Guardians	29
• Foster Care Families	8,532
• Institutions, Including Shelters	1,471
• Detention, Jail and Court Treatment	50
• Independent Living	570
• Mental Health Hospital	20
• AWOL	227
• Other	33

Legal Status of Abuse/Neglect Children:

• Permanent Court Neglect Wards	186
• Temporary Neglect Court Wards	12,701
• MCI State Neglect Wards	6,204
• Other (MCI-O, OTI, Non-Wards)	458

Age, Sex and Race of Abuse/Neglect Children:

<u>Age</u>	<u>FY 2003*</u>	<u>Race</u>	<u>FY2003*</u>
0-6	7,354	White	8,310
7-11	4,861	African American	10,224
12 +	7,334	American Indian	188
		Asian	53
<u>Sex**</u>		Multi- Racial	692
Male	9,886	Other & Unknown	82
Female	9,688	(Includes Native Hawaiian, Undetermined & No Date)	

Source of Information:

SV reports from SWSS FAJ data where house

** Sex is estimated from CSMIS data, SV report not yet available

* End of FY 2003 (9/30/03)